

RULES
FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS
IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
TERRITORY OF UTAH.

DUTY OF OFFICERS.

I.—Whenever the House shall assemble, if the Speaker should be absent, the Chief Clerk shall call the House to order, and proceed to call the Roll; and in his absence, any Member may call to order; and if a quorum is present, the House may proceed to elect a Speaker pro tem. If a quorum is not present, the Sergeant-at-Arms, or any other Officer of the House may be sent after the absentees, and compel their attendance.

II.—The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum; speak on points of order, in preference to other Members, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the House; but shall not speak in debate.

III.—All questions shall be put by the Speaker, and decided by the yeas and nays; but if the Speaker doubts, or a division be called for, the House shall divide; those on the affirmative side of the question shall rise first from their seats, and afterwards those on the negative.

IV.—In all cases when the House is equally divided, the Speaker shall give the casting vote, and shall vote

on all questions when the votes are required to be put upon the Journal. The Speaker shall call some Member to the chair when the House votes to go into committee of the whole, and may then debate the question before the committee.

V.—The Officers of the House shall perform their several duties, as they shall be instructed, from time to time by the Speaker.

OF COMMITTEES.

VI.—No committee shall sit during the sitting of the House, without special leave of the House.

OF MEMBERS.

VII.—No Member shall be allowed to be absent without leave of the House, unless detained by sickness, or other unavoidable necessity.

VIII.—Fourteen Members, including the Speaker, shall constitute a quorum; and no Member shall be permitted to leave the House during the session of the day, without leave of absence by the Speaker.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

IX.—The following order shall govern:—

- 1st. Messages, and communications on the table.
- 2d. Petitions, or remonstrances to be offered.
- 3d. Resolutions, and notices to bring in bills.
- 4th. Reports of committees.
- 5th. Bills to be introduced, of which notice has been given.
- 6th. Bills and resolutions ready for second reading.
- 7th. Bills on their passage.
- 8th. Reports, in possession of the House, which offer grounds for a bill, are to be taken up, that the bill may be ordered in.

9th. Bills or other matter before the House, unfinished the preceding day.

X.—No business shall be taken up out of the above order without the consent of two thirds of the Members present.

OF DECORUM AND DEBATE.

XI.—When a Member shall be called to order, he shall cease speaking; and every question of order shall be decided by the Speaker without debate, subject to an appeal to the House.

XII.—No member shall speak more than twice upon the same question to the exclusion of others, without leave of the House.

XIII.—Before any resolution, any petition, or other paper, addressed to the house, shall be received, and read, whether the same be introduced by the Speaker, or member, the title shall be fairly endorsed thereon, and a brief statement of its objects, or contents, shall be made by its introducer.

XIV.—Every bill shall receive three readings before it is passed; the Speaker shall give notice at each reading, whether it be the first, second, or third: Provided, however, the house may order it to be read by its title, after its first reading.

XV.—After a motion is stated by the Speaker, or read by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the house, but may be withdrawn by leave of the house.

XVI.—When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to lay on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, to commit or amend, to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged. A motion to strike out the enacting

words of a bill shall have precedence of a motion to amend, and if carried, shall be equivalent to its rejection.

XVII.—A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, excepting when a member is speaking, or the house voting; and before the motion is put, the Minutes shall be read.

XVIII.—When the reading of a paper is called for, and the same is objected to by a member, the question shall be determined by a vote of the house.

XIX.—All questions shall be postponed in the order in which they were moved, except that of filling blanks, when the largest sum, and the longest time shall be put first.

XX.—When any matter is referred to a standing committee by motion of any member, it shall be the duty of the chairman of such committee, to notify such member of their time and place of sitting upon such matter so referred; and said member shall be permitted to confer with such committee, during their consideration of such matter; and all standing committees shall have power to send for evidence or papers relative to matters referred.